

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
NORTHERN DIVISION

RONNIE TOWNSEND, #121142,)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
v.) CIVIL ACTION NO. 2:06-CV-564-MHT
)
CAPTAIN ATWOOD, et al.,)
)
Defendants.)

O R D E R

This cause of action is before the court on a 42 U.S.C. § 1983 complaint filed by Robert Townsend [“Townsend”], a state inmate, on June 23, 2006.¹ In this complaint, Townsend alleges a violation of civil rights during his confinement at the Staton Correctional Facility on June 24, 2004. The Magistrate Judge has reviewed the complaint and determined that this pleading cannot be properly and effectively processed by the court without further additional information from the defendants. Accordingly, it is hereby

ORDERED that:

1. The defendants named in the complaint undertake a review of the subject matter

¹1. Although the Clerk of this court stamped the complaint “filed” on June 26, 2006, it is clear that Townsend presented the complaint to prison officials for mailing prior to this date. Since June 26, 2006 fell on a Monday, the court concludes that Townsend must have presented the complaint for mailing, at the latest, on or before the previous Saturday, June 24, 2006, for it to have been received by this court on June 26, 2006. The law is well settled that a pro se inmate’s complaint is deemed filed the date it is delivered to prison officials for mailing. *Houston v. Lack*, 487 U.S. 266, 271-272 (1988); *Adams v. United States*, 173 F.3d 1339, 1340-41 (11th Cir. 1999); *Garvey v. Vaughn*, 993 F.2d 776, 780 (11th Cir. 1993). “Absent evidence to the contrary in the form of prison logs or other records, [this court] must assume that [the instant complaint] was delivered to prison authorities” on June 24, 2006. *Washington v. United States*, 243 F.3d 1299, 1301 (11th Cir. 2001). In light of the foregoing, the court considers June 24, 2006 as the date of filing.

of the complaint (a) to ascertain the relevant facts and circumstances; (b) to consider whether any action should be taken by prison officials to resolve the subject matter of the complaint; and (c) to determine whether other similar complaints, whether pending in this court or elsewhere, should be considered together.

2. A written report be filed with the court containing the sworn statements of all persons having knowledge of the subject matter of the complaint. This report shall be filed with the court and a copy served upon the plaintiff within forty (40) days of the date of this order. All defenses including immunity defenses must be set forth in the written report or such defenses may be waived. Authorization is hereby granted to interview all witnesses, including the plaintiff. Whenever relevant, copies of medical and/or psychiatric records shall be attached to the written report. Where the plaintiff's claim or the defendants' defenses relate to or involve the application of administrative rules, regulations or guidelines, the written report shall include copies of all such applicable administrative rules, regulations or guidelines. **In addressing the claims presented by the plaintiff, the defendants shall furnish copies of all documents, records and regulations relevant to the plaintiff's claims for relief.**

3. An answer be filed within forty (40) days of the date of this order.

4. No motion for summary judgment, motion to dismiss or any other dispositive motions addressed to the complaint be filed by any party without permission of the court. If any pleading denominated as a motion for summary judgment, motion to dismiss or other

dispositive motion is sent to the court, the court shall not file or otherwise treat the pleading as a dispositive motion until and unless further order of the court.

5. NOTICE TO PLAINTIFF.

(a) The *Federal Rules of Civil Procedure* require that the plaintiff mail to the lawyer for the defendants or, if no attorney has appeared on behalf of the defendants, the defendants themselves a true copy of **anything** which he sends to the court. Failure to do so may result in dismissal of this case or other penalties. Anything filed should contain a certificate of service which specifically states that the pleading has been sent to the lawyer for the defendants. If the pleading does not contain a certificate of service, it will not be accepted for filing.

(b) With the exception of the complaint and any response ordered by the court, “[n]o other pleading shall be allowed” in this cause of action. Rule 7(a), *Federal Rules of Civil Procedure*.

(c) Each pleading, motion or other application submitted to the court shall contain "a caption setting forth the name of the court, title of the action, the file number, and a designation[,"] Rule 10(a), *Federal Rules of Civil Procedure*, and must be signed by the plaintiff. Rule 11(a), *Federal Rules of Civil Procedure*.

(d) Every application which requests an order or particular action by the court “shall be [presented] by motion which, unless made during a hearing or trial, shall be made in writing.” Rule 7(b)(1), *Federal Rules of Civil Procedure*. The application “shall set forth

with particularity the grounds" for the motion and "the relief or order sought." *Id.* Additionally, the request or application for relief must contain a proper caption setting forth a title designation which specifically states the action that the applicant or movant wants the court to undertake. Rules 7(b)(2) and 10(a), *Federal Rules of Civil Procedure*. Any application or request which fails to comply with the directives of the civil rules as outlined in this order will not be accepted by the court for filing.

The plaintiff is hereby advised that the court will consider only those requests presented in an appropriate motion which is in the proper form. Consequently, any application for relief or request for action *must be contained in the title of the motion to warrant consideration by the court.*

(e) All amendments to a complaint must be labeled with the words "amendment to complaint" or similar language. Except as permitted by Rule 15(a), *Federal Rules of Civil Procedure*, no amendment to a complaint will be accepted by the court for filing **unless accompanied by a motion for leave to amend.**

(f) **All amendments to the complaint and/or motions to amend must be filed within ninety (90) days of the date of this order and the allegations contained therein must relate to the facts made the basis of the instant complaint.** Proposed amendments or motions to amend filed after this date will be considered untimely. Any such amendments or motions which contain claims unrelated to the claims presented in the original complaint will not be considered by the court.

(g) Plaintiff is informed that this case will proceed as quickly as possible and that he will be informed of all action the court takes.

(h) If plaintiff moves to a different institution or is released, he must immediately inform the court and the defendants of his new address. In so doing, the plaintiff shall style this notification as a "Notice of Change of Address" and provide a copy of this notice to the defendants.

(i) It is the responsibility of the plaintiff to furnish the clerk's office with accurate addresses for the defendant(s) whom plaintiff wishes to serve. Without accurate addresses, service of process is impossible. It is also the responsibility of the plaintiff to monitor this case to make sure that the persons whom plaintiff wishes to sue have been served. If a person has not been served, he/she is not a party to this lawsuit except in very unusual circumstances.

The plaintiff is specifically **CAUTIONED** that his failure to file motions, pleadings or other papers in conformity with the *Federal Rules of Civil Procedure* and/or the directives contained in this order will result in such documents not being accepted for filing. The CLERK is DIRECTED to not accept for filing any pleadings, motions or other applications submitted by the plaintiff which are not in compliance with either the *Federal Rules of Civil Procedure* or the directives contained in this order.

The CLERK is hereby DIRECTED to furnish a copy of this order to the plaintiff and a copy of this order together with a copy of the complaint to the defendants, the General

Counsel for the Alabama Department of Corrections and the Attorney General for the State of Alabama.

Done this 28th day of June, 2006.

/s/Charles S. Coody

CHARLES S. COODY
CHIEF UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE